

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1, 13-17, and 29-32 stand rejected. Claims 2-12 and 18-28 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim, but otherwise allowable. Applicant appreciates the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and objects and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-32 in view of the following.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent Claims 1 and 17

Claims 1 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,629,870 to Farag et al., hereinafter "Farag." Independent claims 1 and 17 include features that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference, namely as represented by claim 1:

1. (Original) A method for transformer testing, comprising:
receiving a *failing test result* of a transformer, *the test result being determined from a test taken during transformer manufacture*;
determining, via a knowledge-based system, *a predicted root cause of the failure* based on the test result and a knowledge base of transformer information; and
determining, via the knowledge-based system, a *suggested course of action for the failure* based on the test result and the knowledge base of transformer information. (emphasis added)

Farag, at the sections cited by the examiner, does not disclose or suggest receiving a failing test result of a transformer, the test result being determined from a test taken *during transformer manufacture*, as recited by the claims. In contrast, Farag discloses testing *during operation* (see Title and 1:14-16) to make a prediction about whether or not a failure will occur in the near future (4:51-52 "predicting imminent failures").

Farag, at the sections cited by the examiner, does not disclose or suggest determining, via a knowledge-based system, a *predicted root cause of the failure* based on the test result and a knowledge base of transformer information, as recited by the claims. In contrast, Farag

discloses fault prediction (12:11). That is, Farag discloses a prediction that a fault will occur, but not a prediction of the *root cause* of an existing failure.

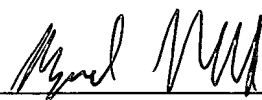
Farag, at the sections cited by the examiner, does not disclose or suggest determining, via the knowledge-based system, a *suggested course of action for the failure* based on the test result and the knowledge base of transformer information, as recited by the claims. Farag discloses sending warning messages to system operators, etc. (13:48-51). This, however, is in anticipation of an imminent failure (4:51-52), not a suggested course of action for a failure for which there is already a failing test result.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 17 are allowable. Additionally, inasmuch as dependent claims 2-16 and 18-32 (which have also been rejected) are dependent on one of claims 1 and 17, these claims are patentable, at least by virtue of their dependency. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Raymond N. Scott Jr. at (215) 564-8951, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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